

SUCCESS ETHICS

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Success ethics is about system of moral principles, or rules of conduct leading to success. These rules of conduct are expected to be abided by all who desire success. The purpose is that integrity be maintained.

If integrity is absent in any success achieved or attained, shame, disgrace, humiliation destruction will be the end result. Such a success will not get Gods approval, but Gods anger. Every Christian should pursue success while walking in integrity.

INTEGRITY is quality of being honest and upright in character. Upholding success ethics makes one a man of integrity. The Christian is enjoined by the scripture to live uprightly following the commandments of God. We are expected to do all things keeping in mind the fact that we will give account to God. You must aspire to glorify God in all your business dealings.

1 Cor 10:31-32

31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

NIV

Col 3:17

17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

NIV

Sometimes people of God wonder why God allows the wicked to prosper, and the righteous seem to be trailing behind. They tend to believe that we don't need to follow the rules since the unrighteous are prospering in total disregard to the rules. You must always remember that there is wealth that flees like the fleeting vapour, and there is enduring wealth the portion of the righteous. There is prosperity that leads to destruction, and there is prosperity that comes from God and guarantees a place in heaven. There is prosperity that takes away peace, and there is prosperity that is void of fear and insecurity. There is prosperity that comes from the devil, and there is prosperity that comes from God. Therefore, you the child of God must choose the kind you want.

Ps 37:1-11

Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; 2 for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. 3 Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. 4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: 6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. 7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. 8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret--it leads only to evil. 9 For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land. 10 A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found. 11 But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.

NIV

If you have chosen to attain success God's way, then you need to know, understand and follow these rules of conduct.

1. Maintain a steady, strong and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

John 1:12

12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-

NIV

1 Cor 6:17

7 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

NIV

1 John 3:2

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

NIV

A steady, strong and intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ will guarantee God's favour, blessings and power for prosperity. If you are not a man's friend, when you need help, he may not help you, talk less of someone you are offending continuously. An intimate relationship with Jesus, wins you Gods right-hand of fellowship.

Ps 16:8

8 I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

NIV

Ps 16:11

11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

NIV

Ps 110:5

5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

NIV

Ps 121:5

5 The LORD watches over you-- the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

NIV

Deut 28:1-14

28:1 If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. 2 All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: 3 You will be blessed

in the city and blessed in the country. 4 The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock--the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. 5 Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. 6 You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. 7 The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. 8 The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. 9 The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. 10 Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you. 11 The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity--in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground--in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you. 12 The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. 13 The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. 14 Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.
NIV

Deut 28:47-48

47 Because you did not serve the LORD your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity, 48 therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the LORD sends against you. He will put an iron yoke on your neck until he has destroyed you.
NIV

2. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you.

Rom 8:14-15

14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
NIV

Isa 30:21

21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."
NIV

The Holy Spirit can never misdirect you. He will lead you to your destination according to the laws and plan of God. If he leads you, you cannot do a bad business. He will always warn you of danger and lead you in the part of peace.

To be led by the Spirit of God, one needs to be sensitive and always eager and ready to obey and follow his leading promptly. His job is to lead you to success in every area of life. Depend on him.

3. Live by the word of God.

Ps 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
NIV

The word of God is meant to give us direction - To show us how to live to gain God's approval in all that we do, and ultimately attain success in all of life's endeavours. Get close to the Bible. Study and meditate on it daily. Believe in all that is written. Be careful to do according to all that is written. To walk contrary to what is written is to attract God's displeasure, and subsequently opposition.

4. Maintain focus.

Have a vision or purpose, and concentrate on it. Don't allow distractions.

John 4:34
34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."
NIV

Acts 26:19
19 "So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven."
NIV

Don't allow what others are doing to distract you from what you are doing. Satan's strategy is broken focus. Focusing will help you to channel all your energy towards the actualization of your dream.

5. Walk by faith and not by sight.

2 Cor 5:7
7 We live by faith, not by sight.
NIV

Phil 4:13
13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
NIV

The journey to success is a journey of faith. From the time the idea that later became your vision was received, till its actualization, faith is required. Without faith, there can be no success.

Believe in your dream idea. Through faith nurture it, oil it, and work at it until it is a reality. Always believe that all things are possible only to him who believes it is possible. There is no vision you cannot achieve.

6. Be success conscious.

Believe in yourself even as you belief in God. Be conscious of your God-given potentials. You can, if you believe you can.

Phil 4:13

13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
NIV

7. Be determined and courageous in the face of opposition.

Never give up. Never quit. Don't shift your ground. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Resist the mountain and it will move away from your path.

Josh 1:6-7

6 "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

NIV

8. Don't run another person down in order to succeed.

Don't plot evil for your competitor, but seek for ways of overtaking him. Improve your services in order to be better than him. Don't use your tongue against him. Don't work against him. Don't allow envy and jealousy to enter your heart toward him.

Gal 6:7

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

NIV

Whatever a man sows he shall reap. If you pull someone down, another will pull you down. If you don't want others to rise, you won't rise.

9. Learn to give Tips.

A tip is a small gift given to someone who renders a service to you. In the office or company that you do your business, and in your bank, learn to give tips since you are or intend to become a regular customer.

Prov 18:16

16 A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.

NIV

Your gift will make way for you and make new friends for you. These friends will always be there to do your business.

Prov 19:6

6 Many curry favor with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of a man who gives gifts.

NIV

10. Give thank you gifts.

Always show appreciation.

Luke 16:9

9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

NIV

Your thank you gift will always prepare the way for favour from the same person. If you are stingy, you will find things difficult. If you learn to show appreciation, you will have many friends everywhere you do your business that are always ready to render assistance to you.

11. Make friends in the company(s) you do your business that will serve as informants and helping hands.

They are to inform you when your services are needed, and the movement of your file. You must be willing to part with something for this kind of friendship. If they know that something is in it for them, they will perform excellently without breaking there company code.

You must not encourage them to defraud their company or work against the interest of their employer. That is evil in the sight of God.

12. Don't give Bribes.

A bribe is something given, offered or promised to somebody in order to influence or persuade him, often to do something wrong in favour of the giver. It is a gift to pervert the course of justice. It is a gift given to cover a crime.

1 Sam 8:3

3 But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

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1 Sam 12:3

3 Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the LORD and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me shut my eyes? If I have done any of these, I will make it right."

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Isa 33:14-15

14 The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless: "Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?" 15 He who walks righteously and speaks what is right, who rejects gain from extortion and keeps his hand from accepting bribes, who stops his ears against plots of murder and shuts his eyes against contemplating evil.

NIV

Amos 5:12

12 For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. You oppress the righteous and take bribes and you deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

NIV

Bribery is evil. It blinds a man's eyes and makes him to oppress the innocent, and deny justice to the poor. Bribery is responsible for the destruction of our economy today. Inferior projects take the place of quality projects because of bribery. Fake products, abandoned projects fill our nation because of bribery. The child of God is not expected to give or take bribes.

13. Don't cheat or defraud another person or company.

Prov 21:17

*17 He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.
NIV*

Prov 21:6

*6 A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.
NIV*

If you succeed today in cheating another person or company, tomorrow, you will pay for it - you won't be able to handle the problem that will come from that act. It will be likened to a man trying to chew gravel. Fortune made by deceit will suddenly disappear like a fleeting vapour - it does not last. Above all, it is a deadly trap. If you are caught, you are finished. Pursue success the right way to avoid embarrassment.

Lev 19:11

*11 "Do not steal. "Do not lie. "Do not deceive one another.
NIV*

Lev 19:13

*13 "Do not defraud your neighbor or rob him. "Do not hold back the wages of a hired man overnight.
NIV*

14. Don't extort money from people.

Ps 62:10-12

*10 Do not trust in extortion or take pride in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them. 11 One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong, 12 and that you, O Lord, are loving. Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done.
NIV*

Prov 13:11

*Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.
NIV*

Security agents and officials of government are most guilty in this. Extortion is not the best way of making money. The nature of the judgement that will come upon you, you may not be able to imagine. One thing I know is that, he will visit you according to what you have done.

Be satisfied with your wages or look for a legal alternative source of making more money. John the Baptist advised in *Luke 3:12-14*:

Luke 3:12-14

12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" 13 "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. 14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

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If it is not evil, God will not talk about it. So flee from this evil. It will ruin your life.

15. Don't steal to be rich.

Ps 62:10-12

10 Do not trust in extortion or take pride in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them. 11 One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong, 12 and that you, O Lord, are loving. Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done.

NIV

Eph 4:28

28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

NIV

Gal 6:7

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

NIV

Stealing not only leaves a man financially and materially empty, it makes a man sad. And you the thief cannot expect to be happy forever when you have been taken away happiness from many lives and homes. Repent from stealing to avoid God's judgement. Get employed. Work your way to the top. To you, it might be slow, but it is better than stealing. Armed-robbery, pen-robbery and pilfering are all types of stealing. And God hates them all.

(To be continued)

SUCCESS TITBITS

- 1. The wise are they who listen to advice and accept correction and rebuke meekly. Can you consider yourself to be wise?**
- 2. Remaining as you are year after year is self-deceit and counter productive. Resisting rebuke, correction and change is resisting God and progress.**
- 3. Before a blessing reaches your hand, there is always a fight. Watch out and do not lose this fight so you do not miss the blessing.**

4. **Change is a function of a firm resolve and determination to become better. Any one who opens up himself or herself for, and cries out for change, will experience change. The desire of God is to see you become better. Agree with and cooperate with God on this, and your life will radiate the glory of God.**
5. **Breakthrough is a function of grace on the part of God, faithfulness, commitment, seed sowing and sacrifice on the part of the seeker. Learn what to do to get a breakthrough and do it with all your heart and diligence and you will have what you seek.**
6. **Before God the true state of a man is revealed. God cannot be deceived or mocked. It takes sincerity to please God and walk with Him. Can you say of yourself that you are sincere with God?**
7. **Love and affection for God is a function of a decision. Your decision about your relationship with God determines how you relate with Him. Fervency or lukewarmness is a result of a decision. Decide to be close to God and fervent in serving Him today and you will be glad you did. God is too deep to be fully comprehended.**
8. **To think that one can know God fully once or in a short period of time is deception. It takes a consistent searching and digging deep into the word of God, fellowship and close communion in heart felt prayers to grow in the knowledge of God and in His power. Make up your mind to dig deep into God, and be consistent in seeking Him.**
9. **The value you place on anything determines the virtue you get from it.**
10. **The value you place on God determines your commitment to Him. The way you see God determines the way you see and relate His word. How do you see God? Who and what is He to you?**

RENEWING THE MIND

1. **Mind management is the first priority in the school of success.**
2. **Your thoughts determine your words, emotions (feelings) and actions.**
3. **As we think so we talk. As we think so we feel. As we think so we act.**
4. **God sees your thoughts and watches you all the time. Everything about you counts before God. Never think or say it doesn't matter. What you say and do can hinder your breakthrough and prosperity that you so desire.**
5. **Thoughts fire you on and open you up to all kinds of spirits and experiences. Watch your thoughts closely.**
6. **If you don't know how to control your thoughts in the midst of frustrations and disappointments, your hands will be full of trouble.**
7. **The way you interpret what you see, hear feel affects your whole life.**
8. **The way you see affects your future and all that you do and live for.**
9. **Your heart is the center of your peace, and your peace is your strength. Guard your heart and let it not be troubled.**
10. **Your mind is the center of righteousness.**
11. **Your thoughts determine your words, and your words create your experience.**

12. **Greatness is programmed and built into you. Do not look down on yourself. You cannot rise above your self-image.**

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. **You will always relate to your spouse as you think.**
2. **Your type of dressing determines the type of people that are attracted to you. And those that are attracted to you make input into your life – they influence you one way or the other. Those attracted to you strengthen a weakness in you or strength.**
3. **To harbor a rebellious fellow is detrimental to you. You will share in his punishment.**
4. **To accommodate one you cannot speak into his or her life is stupidity.**
5. **Anyone who cannot listen to you is not worthy to be under your roof.**
6. **Draw a line between love and encouraging one who refused to be disciplined and grow up.**
7. **The way you dress is the way you will be addressed.**
8. **People read you by the things you wear. Before they hear you, they read you. Before they know what is on the inside of you, they see and interpret what they see on the outside.**
9. **Ability to manage crisis is a sign that one has become a man.**
10. **Your desires determine who your friends will be.**